TOBIRAE SELECTION

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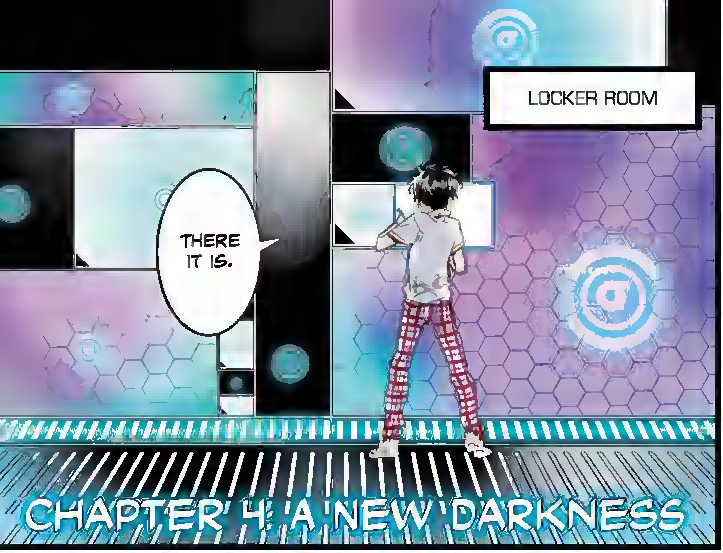
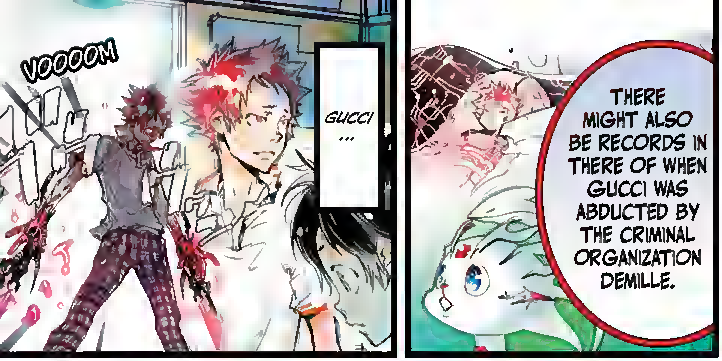
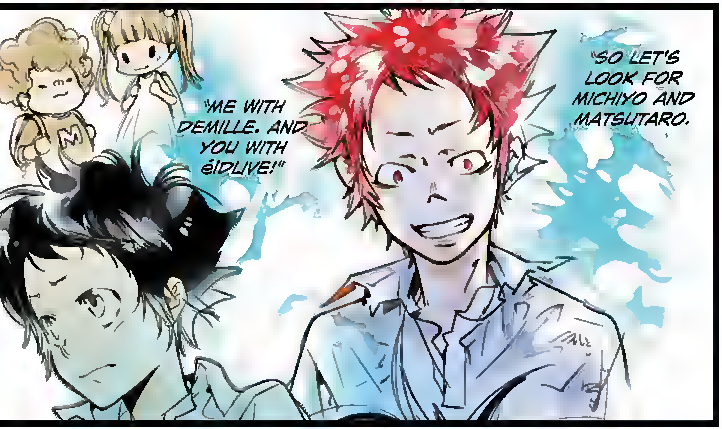
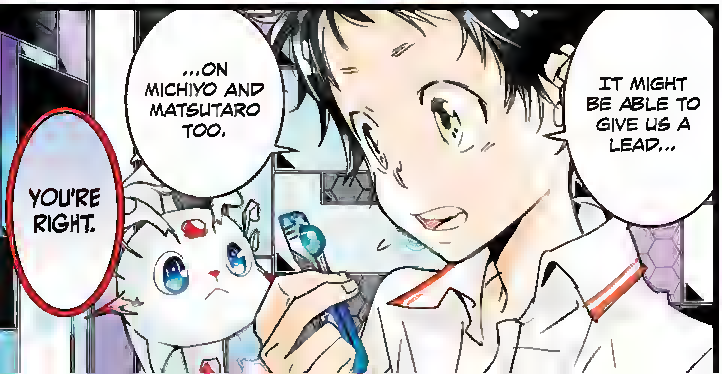


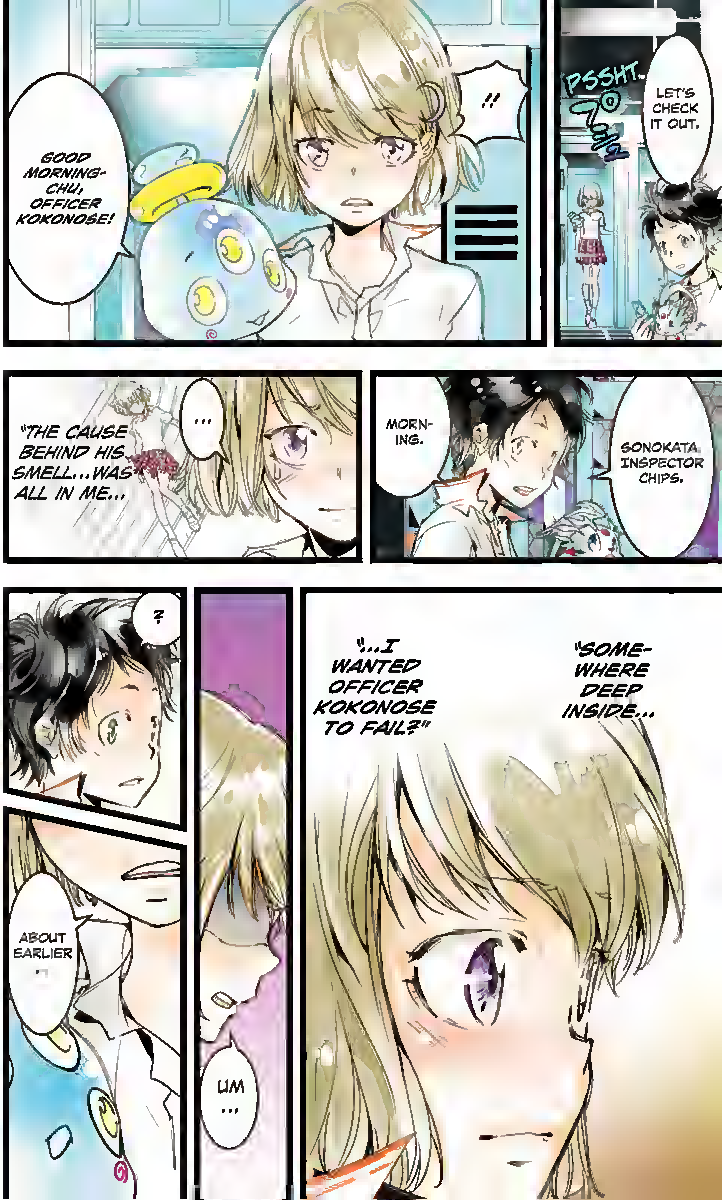
CHAPTER 4: A NEW DARKNESS

DREW THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T EVEN GOING TO LOOK AT IT UNTIL LANE SPOKE TO YOU.
BUT NOW DREW SEES YOU WERE JUST SO CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SCENT, THAT YOU FORGOT ABOUT IT.
WHA-
?
YOU'RE MAKING ME OUT TO BE AN IDIOT!
THAT WASN'T THE ONLY THING, REMEMBER?
THERE WAS ALSO THE REMOTE CONTROL CASE!
ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK AT IT?
...
!
HE SAID IT HAS RECORDS IN IT FROM THE INCIDENT ON MT. TAKETORI SEVEN YEARS AGO...
...WHEN IT WAS HANDLED AS A SPACE INCIDENT.

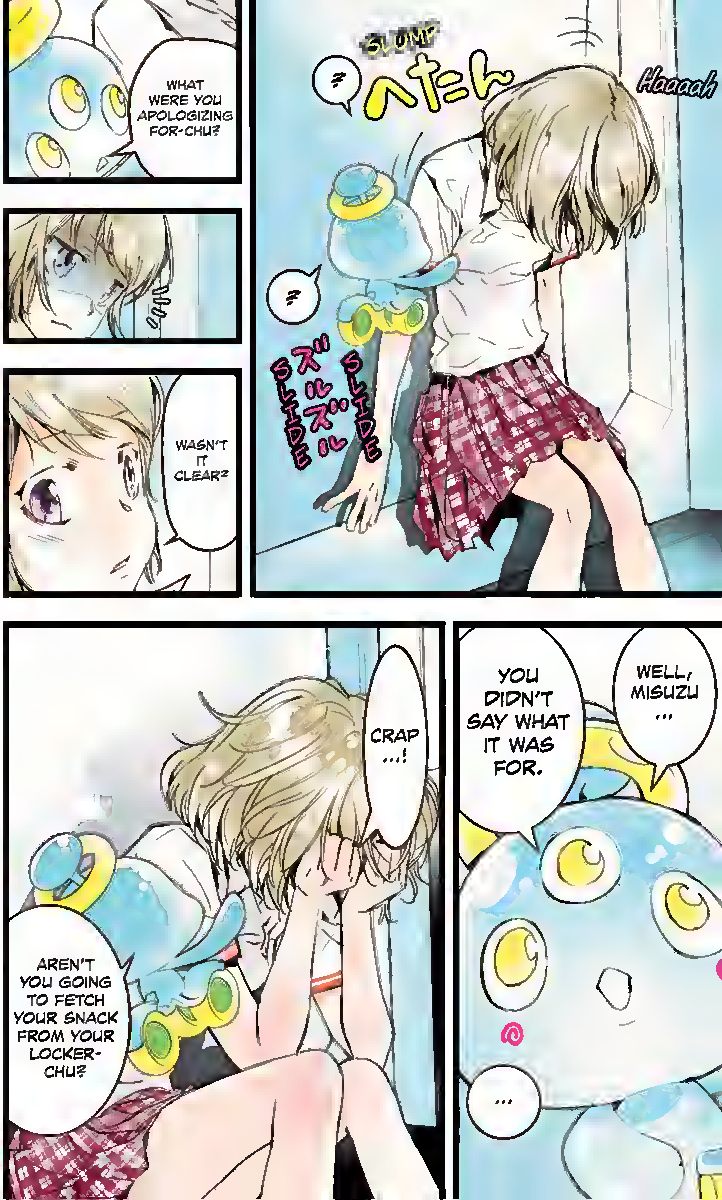

VOOOOM
GUCCI ...
THERE MIGHT ALSO BE RECORDS IN THERE OF WHEN GUCCI WAS ABDUCTED BY THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION DEMILLE.


"ME WITH DEMILLE. AND YOU WITH ëIDLIVE!"
"SO LET'S LOOK FOR MICHIYO AND MATSUTARO.


YOU'RE RIGHT.
...ON MICHIYO AND MATSUTARO TOO.
IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE US A LEAD...

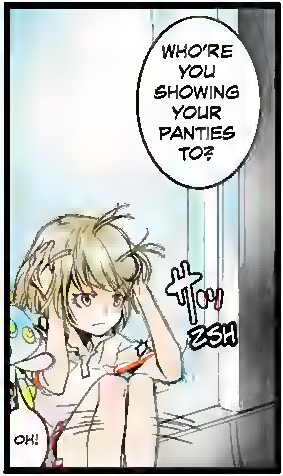

GOOD MORNING-CHU, OFFICER KOKONOSE!
!!
PSSHT.
LET'S CHECK IT OUT.
"THE CAUSE BEHIND HIS SMELL...WAS ALL IN ME...
...
MORN-ING.
GONOKATA, INSPECTOR CHIPS.
?
ABOUT EARLIER...
UM...
"...I WANTED OFFICER KOKONOSE TO FAIL?"
"SOME-WHERE DEEP INSIDE...

I'M SORRY!!
PSSHT
Haah...
THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE.
HUSH
...?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
?
?
SHF
キョロ
キョロ
SHF
WHO WAS SHE TALKING TO?

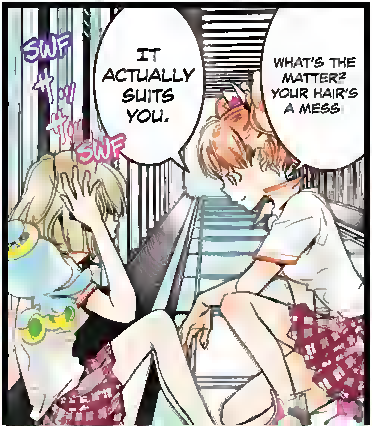

WHAT WERE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR-CHU?
WASN'T IT CLEAR?
SLUMP
へたん
Haaaah
SLIDE
ズルズル
SLIDE
SLIDE
CRAP ...!
AREN'T YOU GOING TO FETCH YOUR SNACK FROM YOUR LOCKER-CHU?
WELL, MISUZU ...
YOU DIDN'T SAY WHAT IT WAS FOR.
...

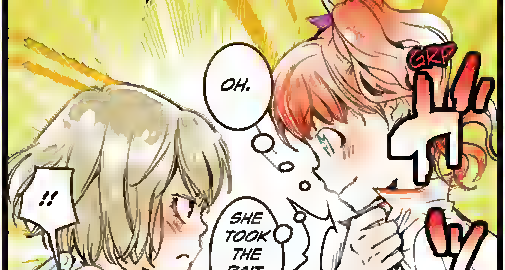
I'LL DO IT LATER...

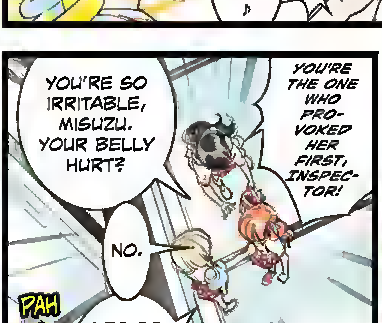
GOOD MORN-ING.
HEY.
GOOD MORNING-CHU, VERONICA. NINOTCHKA.

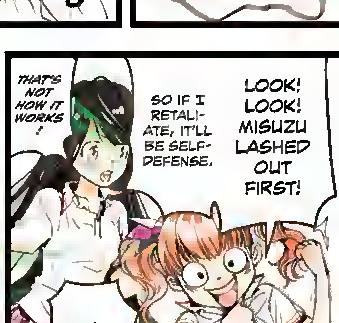

WHO'RE YOU SHOWING YOUR PANTIES TO?
ZSH
OH!

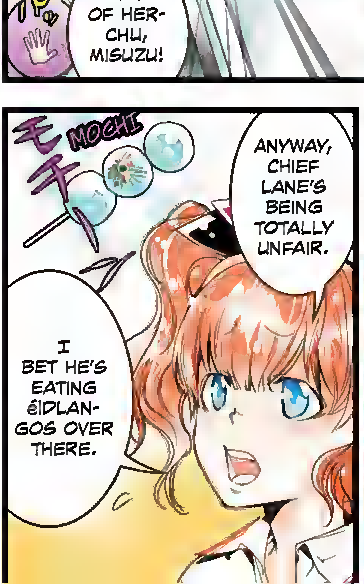
ヒキ!
URK.
ALONG WITH THAT CUTESY-CUTE HAIR-PIN. ♪
MAYBE IT'LL COME INTO FASHION.

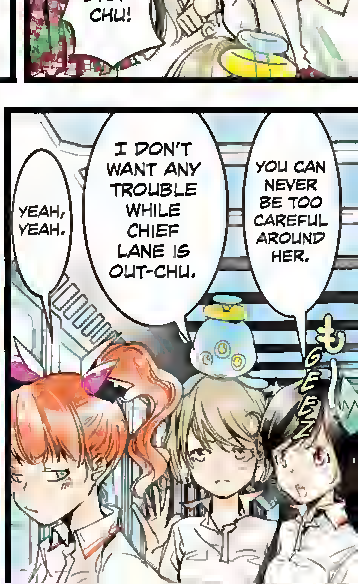

SWF
SWF
IT ACTUALLY SUITS YOU.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOUR HAIR'S A MESS


OH.
!!
SHE TOOK THE BAIT. ♪
GRP
ZOOM


YOU'RE SO IRRITABLE, MISUZU. YOUR BELLY HURT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PRO-VOKED HER FIRST, INSPEC-TOR!
NO.
PAH
LET GO OF HER-CHU, MISUZU!

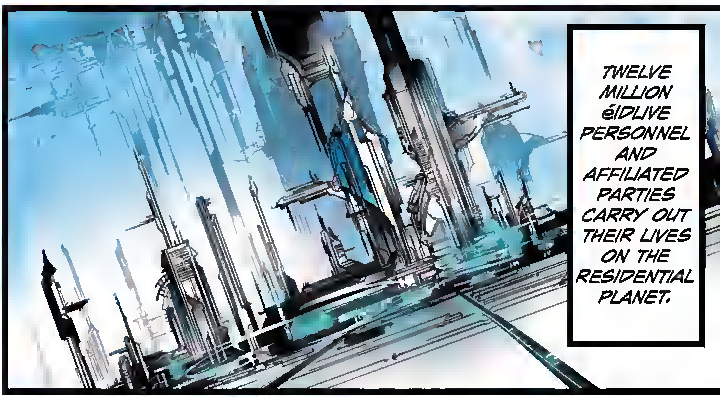

THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS!
SO IF I RETALI-ATE, IT'LL BE SELF-DEFENSE.
LOOK! LOOK! MISUZU LASHED OUT FIRST!
STOP-CHU!


MOCHI
ANYWAY, CHIEF LANE'S BEING TOTALLY UNFAIR.
I BET HE'S EATING ÊIDLAN-GOS OVER THERE.


YEAH, YEAH.
I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE WHILE CHIEF LANE IS OUT-CHU.
YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL AROUND HER.
GEEZ

ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'LL GO EAT A SNACK...
GLARE
GRRROWL
FAR FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM...
...@DLIVE HEAD-QUARTERS...

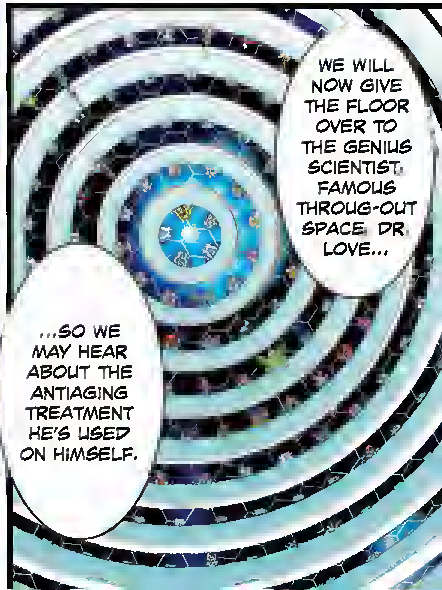
...
INCLUDE AN EXECUTIVE PLANET AND A RESIDENTIAL PLANET.
THE ARTIFICIAL PLANETS THAT MAKE UP THE HUB THAT MAINTAIN ORDER IN ëiCIVILIZATION SOCIETY...

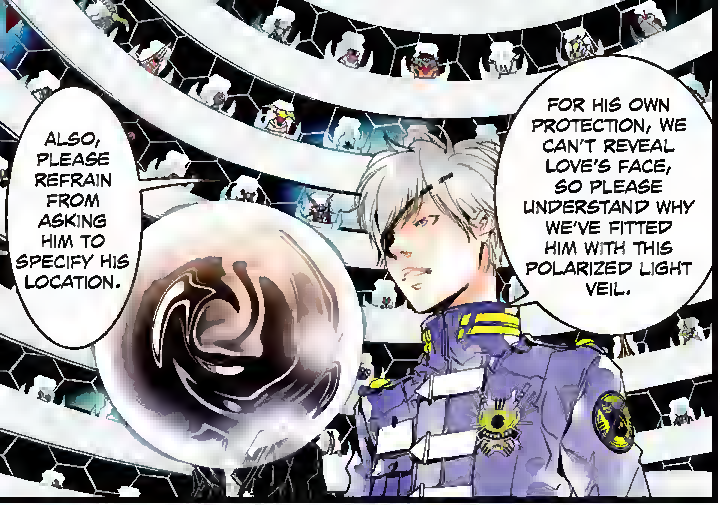

TWELVE MILLION ëiDLIVE PERSONNEL AND AFFILIATED PARTIES CARRY OUT THEIR LIVES ON THE RESIDENTIAL PLANET.

...MAKING IT A REAL SPECIES MELTING POT.
BEINGS FROM ALL MANNER OF ëi-CIVILIZATION PLANETS GATHER HERE AND LIVE TOGETHER ...

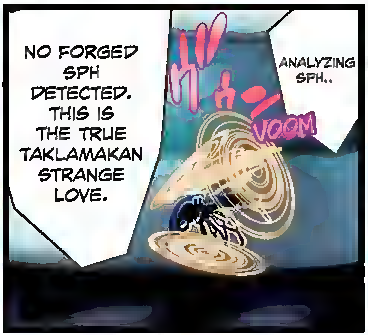
IF I MAY HAVE A MOMENT FIRST?

Central Meeting Ball

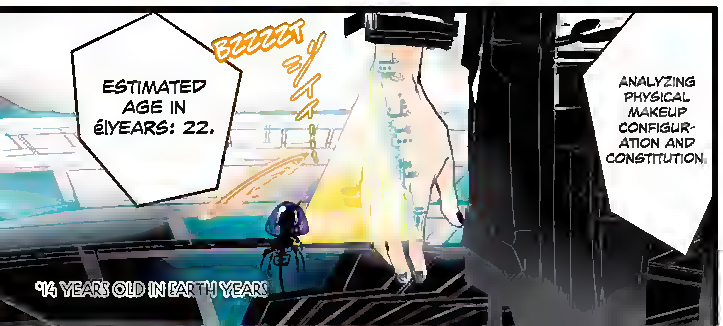

WE WILL NOW GIVE THE FLOOR OVER TO THE GENIUS SCIENTIST FAMOUS THROUG-OUT SPACE DR LOVE...
...SO WE MAY HEAR ABOUT THE ANTIAGING TREATMENT HE'S USED ON HIMSELF.

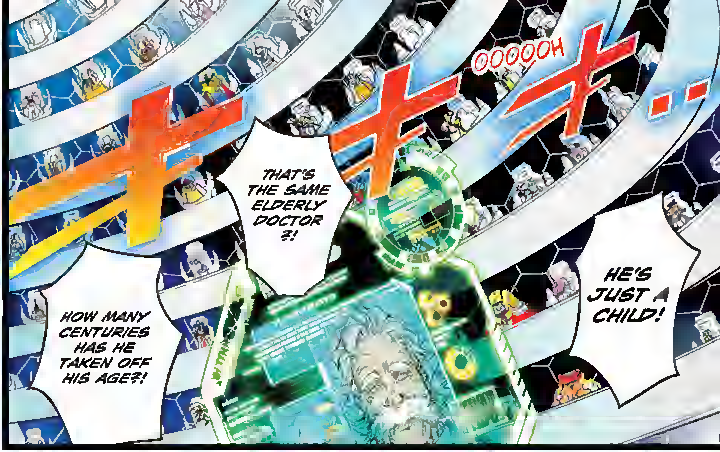

FOR HIS OWN PROTECTION, WE CAN'T REVEAL LOVE'S FACE, SO PLEASE UNDERSTAND WHY WE'VE FITTED HIM WITH THIS POLARIZED LIGHT VEIL.
ALSO, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ASKING HIM TO SPECIFY HIS LOCATION.

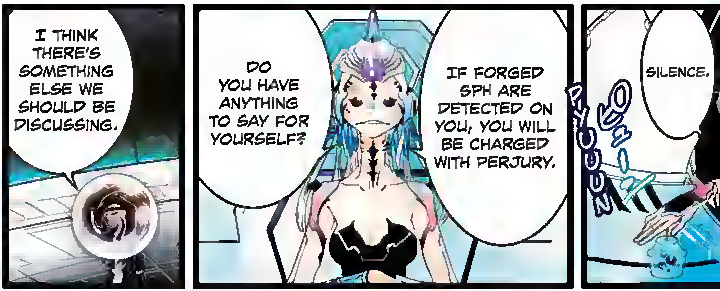
MURMUR

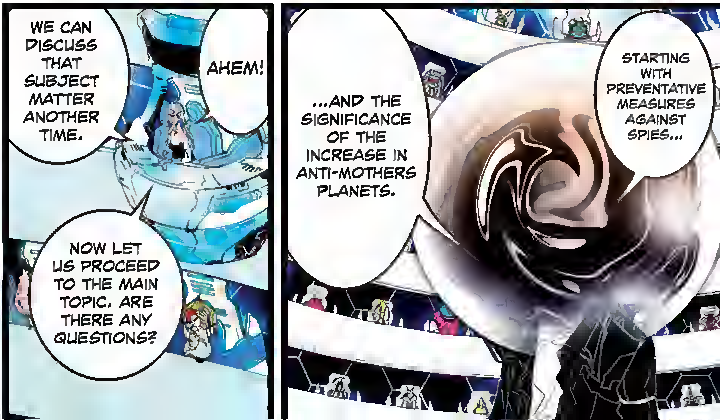

NO FORGED SPH DETECTED. THIS IS THE TRUE TAKLAMAKAN STRANGE LOVE.
ANALYZING SPH..
VOOM

VOOM

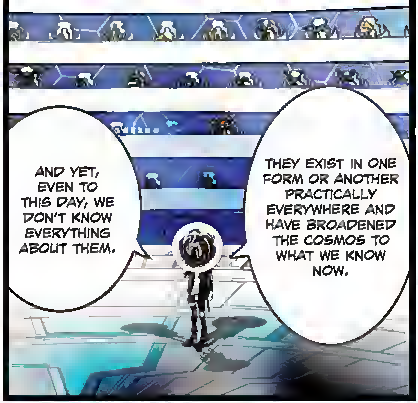

ESTIMATED AGE IN ÉLYEARS: 22.
ANALYZING PHYSICAL MAKEUP CONFIGUR-ATION AND CONSTITUTION.
*14 YEARS OLD IN EARTH YEARS

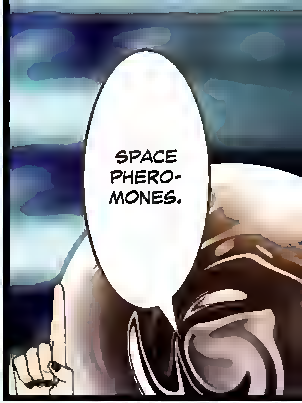

OOOOOH
HOW MANY CENTURIES HAS HE TAKEN OFF HIS AGE?!
THAT'S THE SAME ELDERLY DOCTOR ?!
HE'S JUST A CHILD!

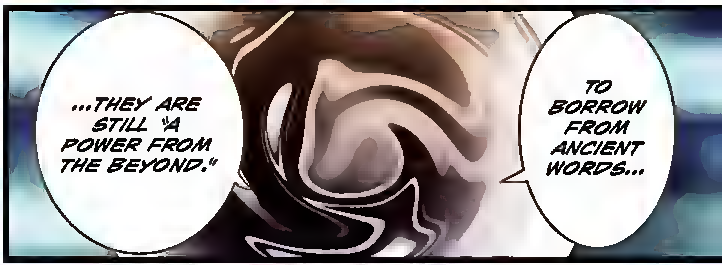

I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE WE SHOULD BE DISCUSSING.
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
IF FORGED SPH ARE DETECTED ON YOU, YOU WILL BE CHARGED WITH PERJURY.
SILENCE.
RECEIVED


WE CAN DISCUSS THAT SUBJECT MATTER ANOTHER TIME.
AHEM!
NOW LET US PROCEED TO THE MAIN TOPIC. ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?
...AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INCREASE IN ANTI-MOTHERS PLANETS.
STARTING WITH PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AGAINST SPIES...

HOW ABOUT APPLICATIONS FOR NON-HUMANOIDS?!
WHAT ABOUT ME?!
LOGICALLY SPEAKING, IF YOU WERE TO REPEAT THE ANTI-AGING ENOUGH TIMES ..
..WOULD IT BE CORRECT TO ASSUME THAT ETERNAL LIFE COULD BE POSSIBLE?
ARE THEY ANY PROSPECTS OF PUTTING IT TO PRACTICAL USE?
THAT ANTI-AGING TREATMENT OF YOURS.
BUT REALLY THEY JUST WANT TO KNOW HOW THEY CAN MAKE THEMSELVES YOUNGER.
THEY CALLED US OUT HERE SAYING THEY WANTED TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS THAT COULD ARISE FROM DRASTIC ANTI-AGING FROM AN ETHICAL STANDPOINT.
HOW RUDE.
COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO US IN SIMPLE SCIENTIFIC TERMS HOW YOUR ANTI-AGING TREATMENT WORKS?
LET'S ALLOW DR. LOVE TO ANSWER ALL THESE QUESTIONS IN THE ORDER THEY WERE ASKED.


AND YET, EVEN TO THIS DAY, WE DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THEM.
THEY EXIST IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER PRACTICALLY EVERYWHERE AND HAVE BROADENED THE COSMOS TO WHAT WE KNOW NOW.


SPACE PHERO-MONES.


...THEY ARE STILL "A POWER FROM THE BEYOND."
TO BORROW FROM ANCIENT WORDS...

FOR EX-AMPLE, IS THAT SYNONY-MOUS WITH...
..WHERE MOTHERS RE-SIDES?

MURMUR
...
MURMUR
?

..THAT INCLUDES MANY MEANINGS, BUT...
WHEN YOU SAY "THE BEYOND"...

..AND PRO-PELLED MY FLESH INTO THE BEYOND.
SO WHAT I DID WAS TURN THE IDEA ON ITS HEAD..
THAT'S AS SIMPLE AN EXPLANA-TION AS I CAN GIVE.

AS EXPECTED, PROFESSOR ASH BRINGS UP A VALID POINT.
BUT I WONDER. SINCE MOTHERS IS A TRANSCENDENT BEING IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE, ITS BASIC MAKEUP IS DIFFERENT.
IN ALL HONESTY, THE VERY QUESTION OF WHETHER IT TOUCHES UPON THEIR DOMAIN IN THE FIRST PLACE IS UP FOR DEBATE...
UUH!
UGAH!
GAAH!
NO... NOT NOW!
?!
DR. LOVE?!
GYAH!
THUD
THIS TECH-NOLOGY ISN'T... P-PER-FECTED YET...!
GAH!
MY ARM!!
スル
SLIP
6

!!
!!
EEK!
SPLAT
I'M SORRY, BUT...
...IT'S NOT THAT EASY TO COMPLETELY REVERSE ONE'S AGE.
IT COMES WITH ITS OWN COSTS.
OOF!